

VICTIMS PROGRAMS STATUS REPORT

2006/2007

VICTIMS DESERVE TO BE HEARD



Alberta Solicitor General
and Public Security

Table of Contents

Report Highlights	3
Victims Of Crime Act	4
History	4
Victims Of Crime Programs Committee.....	5
Committee Members	5
Committee Meetings	5
Funding Agreements	6
Grant Funding Formula	6
Grants Provided	7
Police-Based Programs	7
Grants Provided (Police-Based Programs 2006/2007)	9
Multi-Year Grants (Police-Based Programs 2006/2007)	10
Community Programs	11
Program Activity	16
Introduction	16
New Cases	16
Persons Assisted	17
Type Of Assistance	17
Volunteers	18
Alberta Solicitor General & Public Security Initiatives	20
Victims of Crime Protocol: What Victims Can Expect	20
Victims of Crime Protocol Training	20
Victims of Crime Protocol: Roles and Responsibilities	20
Victim Impact Statement Program	21
Requesting Restitution Program	24
Victim Advocate Training Manual	25
Victim Assistance Coordinator Training	25
Awareness Campaign	25
Brochures	25
Victims Of Crime Website	25
Contact Us	26
APPENDIX A - Map of Alberta Police-Based Victim Service Units.....	27

REPORT HIGHLIGHTS

- Victims of Crime Fund grants totaling \$4,486,131 were provided to 96 victim service programs in the fiscal year 2006/2007. This amount reflects an increase in excess of \$800,000 over the previous year's funding. Of this amount, \$2,591,587 was dispersed to programs that applied for funding in the 2006/2007 fiscal year. The remaining \$1,894,544 was provided to programs that received multi-year grants in previous years.
- Police-based programs (RCMP, municipal police, and First Nations police) received 65%, or \$2,936,634, of grant funds for 2006/2007.
- Community initiatives received 35%, or \$1,549,497, of grant funds for 2006/2007.
- As of March 31, 2007, Alberta had a network of 70 police-based victim service programs operating 117 victim service units.
- Victim service programs reported 43,914 new cases of crime or tragedy; 56% of those new cases involved assistance to victims of violent crime.
- Victim service programs reported providing services to 60,428 people in 2006/2007, of which 51,701 (86%) were adults and 8,727 (14%) were children under the age of 18.
- 1,767 volunteer advocates and board members contributed a total of 208,235 volunteer hours in 2006/2007.
- *Providing information* was the most frequent type of assistance provided for new and ongoing cases.
- *Providing general assistance* (information, crisis intervention and referrals), accounted for 43% of advocates' time.
- 12,934 Victim Impact Statement packages were distributed to victims of crime in 2006/2007. The majority were distributed in cases of assault (30%), domestic assault (26%) and residential break and enter (8%).
- A total of 4,509 Victim Impact Statement Notification Forms were forwarded by victim service programs to the Clerk of the Court and the Crown, once charges had been laid.
- During 2006/2007, 1,562 Requests for Restitution were completed and of these, 1,450 were forwarded to the Crown for consideration in their sentencing submission to the Court. The majority (69%) of requests involved non-violent crimes.

History**VICTIMS OF CRIME ACT**

The *Victims of Crime Act (Act)* was proclaimed August 1, 1997 excluding provisions directly associated with the delivery of financial benefits to individual victims of crime; this was proclaimed on November 1, 1997. The *Victims of Crime Act* replaced the *Victims' Programs Assistance Act* and the *Criminal Injuries Compensation Act*.

The Victims of Crime Fund (Fund), a regulated fund held and administered by the Minister of Finance, operates under the authority of the *Victims of Crime Act*, Chapter V-3, Revised Statutes of Alberta 2000. The Solicitor General and Minister of Public Security is responsible for the Fund under the authority of the *Government Organization Act*, Statutes of Alberta.

The purpose of the Fund is to provide grants to victims' programs and to pay benefits to victims, or their dependants, who suffer injury or death as the result of a criminal offence specified in the regulations of the *Victims of Crime Act*, using provincial and federal fine surcharge revenues. As of March 31, 2007 the Fund had net assets of \$38,303,000.

The Minister, in accordance with the *Act* and regulations uses the Fund for:

- grants under section 11 of the *Act* with respect to programs that benefit victims of crime;
- costs incurred by the Committee and the Criminal Injuries Review Board in carrying out their duties;
- remuneration and expenses payable to the members of the Committee and the Criminal Injuries Review Board;
- financial benefits payable pursuant to the *Act*;
- to pay the costs of administering the *Act*.

On May 10, 2005, the *Act* incorporated the Canadian Statement of Basic Principles of Justice for Victims of Crime which reiterates the need to treat victims with courtesy, compassion, respect and privacy. The principles state victims should be provided with information about the role they play within the justice system and acknowledgment that victim's views and concerns are important.

Under the *Act*, the Minister has appointed a Director who is responsible for providing victims and their families with general information concerning services available for victims, how the justice system operates, and overall administration of the *Act*. The Director also evaluates applications for, and makes decisions respecting, eligibility for financial benefits in accordance with section 13 of the *Act*. As well, the Director is a point of contact for victims who feel they have not been treated in accordance with the principles of the *Act*, providing them with information on how to resolve their concerns.

Two core programs operate under the *Act* - a financial benefits program for eligible victims who have suffered injury as a result of a violent criminal

History

offence, and a grants program that provides funding to eligible groups and organizations offering information, assistance and support to victims during their involvement in the criminal justice process.

In 2006/2007, \$10,583,000 was provided to eligible victims of crime by the Victims of Crime Financial Benefits Program for physical or emotional injuries sustained as a result of violent crime committed in Alberta. The Victims of Crime Fund provided \$4,486,131 to police and community-based programs who deliver services to victims of crime.

This report focuses on the Victims of Crime Fund grants program. Key performance measures related to victims can be found in the Alberta Solicitor General & Public Security Annual Report 2006-2007 at: www.solgen.gov.ab.ca.

VICTIMS OF CRIME PROGRAMS COMMITTEE

The *Victims of Crime Act* established the Victims of Crime Programs Committee, whose members are appointed by the Solicitor General and Minister of Public Security. The Committee evaluates grant applications from eligible programs and makes recommendations to the Solicitor General and Minister of Public Security on grant funding. The Minister has final approval of grants awarded.

The Committee consists of five members, with three members representing the community at-large, one member representing police, and one member representing government.

**Committee
Members**

The 2006/2007 Committee Members were:

Ms. Mona Jorgensen, (Chair), member-at-large, Bragg Creek, Alberta
Ms. Sonia Wilson, (Edmonton Police Service), representing police
Mr. Tom Blair, member-at-large, Granum, Alberta
Mr. Donald Clark, member-at-large, Edmonton, Alberta
Mr. Peter Teasdale, (Alberta Justice), representing government

**Committee
Meetings**

The Committee meets twice per year to evaluate grant applications submitted for the April 1st and October 1st application deadlines. In 2006, the Committee met June 15th and 16th, and December 6th and recommended 57 grant applications to the Solicitor General and Minister of Public Security for the 2006/2007 period.

**Grant
Funding
Formula****GRANT FUNDING AGREEMENTS**

Programs approved for grant funding are required to enter into an agreement with the Solicitor General and Minister of Public Security. In accordance with the agreement, funded programs are required to submit quarterly statistics, annual financial statements, and an evaluation report upon expiry of the funding term.

The grant funding formula ensures fair and equitable allocation of grant monies province wide through the establishment of a base funding amount. The formula:

- Allocates a specified amount from the Victims of Crime Fund to police-based programs who provide victim services.
- Utilizes a per crime amount, calculated using the Uniform Crime Report data on violent crimes, as submitted to Statistics Canada by all police services.
- Establishes a minimum base funding award to police-based victim service programs of \$8,000 per program per year (there is no minimum amount for community based programs).
- Establishes a maximum grant amount of \$100,000 to both police-based and community-based victim programs.

In addition to the base funding amount, police-based victim service programs and specialized community programs that benefit victims during the criminal justice process, may request additional funding if any of the following discretionary factors apply:

- large geographical area/low population density
- unique demographics
- weak economic base
- new programs or projects
- other special circumstances that may be identified by the applicant

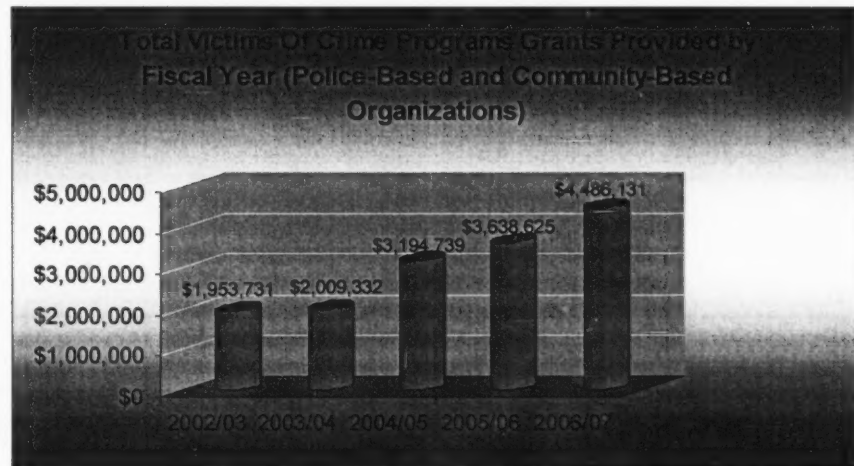
Grant periods are usually one year in duration, however eligible programs may request multi-year grant funding commitments up to three years. The multi-year commitment was introduced so established programs who have operated successfully for three years and demonstrated sound management practices, could budget for the future based on secure funding, thus facilitating longer term planning.

Grants Provided

The Report of the Alberta Victims of Crime Consultation was based on consultations with victims, service providers, and stakeholders across Alberta. The Report, released in July 2004, established a ten year strategic direction for victims of crime programs and services, and made recommendations to ensure victims have a more meaningful role in the criminal justice system. One of the report's accepted recommendations is to "increase funding for victims' programs and services."

In 2006/2007, the Solicitor General and Minister of Public Security approved grant funding totalling \$4,486,131, which was dispersed to 96 programs. This amount is the highest dollar amount awarded for grants in the history of the program and represents a 19% increase from 2005/2006 (**Figure 1**). The \$4,486,131 amount also includes grant recipients from previous years who received multi-year funding.

Figure 1



Police-based Programs

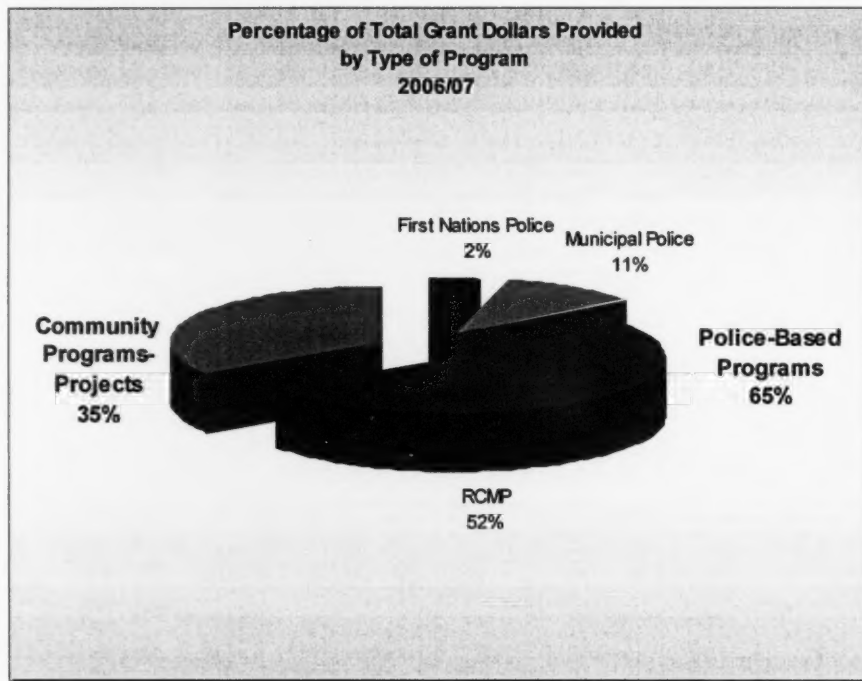
Of the programs that received funding in 2006/2007, 34 police-based programs were provided grants for a one year term, or received the first installment of a multi-year grant for a total of \$1,508,062. The remaining 36 programs were awarded multi-year funding in either 2003/2004, 2004/2005 or 2005/2006 and received their second or third year installments for a total of \$1,428,572 for the 2006/2007 year.

Police-based Programs

In 2006/2007 grants to police-based victim service programs amounted to \$2,936,634, (65%) of the total grant funding. Of that amount, \$2,333,235 was granted to RCMP victim service programs. Municipal police victim service programs received \$503,399, while the remaining \$100,000, was awarded to First Nations police victim service programs.

Although police-based programs receive funding priority, community programs providing services to victims of crime are also funded. Community programs were allocated 35% of total grants provided in 2006/2007 (**Figure 2**).

Figure 2



A network of police-based victim assistance programs now provide services for victims in 98% of the province. As of March 31, 2007, there were 70 police-based victims programs operating 117 victim service units in Alberta.

Services provided to victims include intervention and support, information about their case and criminal justice proceedings, information about medical, legal, and social services available to assist, referrals to other community agencies, and court room orientation and accompaniment. Police-based programs also provide victims of crime with information about completing victim impact statements, requesting restitution, and applying for financial benefits. These programs provide a continuum of services to victims from the time of first response by police to the disposition of the case by the Courts. Services are provided in accordance with provincial guidelines.

**Grants
Provided For
Police-based
Programs**

The following grants were provided for police-based programs in 2006/2007:

Assumption Region Community Policing Society	\$53,500
Beaverlodge Victim Services Unit Society	\$15,000
Blood Tribe Police Victim Services Unit	\$100,000
Bonnyville Victim Services Society	\$77,960
Bow Island - Foremost Victim Assistance Association	\$8,000
Camrose & District Victim Services Society	\$46,250
Chinook Arch Victim Services Society	\$40,000
Foothills Regional Victim Services Association	\$60,929
Fox Creek Victim Service Unit	\$8,000
Grande Cache Victim Services Society	\$15,000
Heartland Victim Service Unit Society	\$30,690
High Prairie and District Victim Assistance Society	\$65,000
Hinton District Victim Services Society	\$40,000
Innisfail Victim Service Unit	\$10,448
Lacombe Victim Services Association	\$12,000
Mackenzie Regional Community Policing Society	\$87,000
Midwest Victim Services	\$20,761
Peace Regional Victim Services Society	\$75,000
Ponoka Victim Service Association	\$30,000
Ranchlands Victim Service Society	\$75,000
Red Deer City Victim Services	\$90,000
Redcliff Victim Service Unit Association	\$10,000
Red Earth Creek Victim Services Society	\$30,000
Redwater - Smokey Lake Victim Services Society	\$25,000
Rimbey and District Victim Services Society	\$16,835
Rocky and District Victim Services Unit Association	\$50,000
Slave Lake Victim Services Society	\$50,000
St. Albert Victim Service Association	\$35,000
St. Paul and Area Victim Services Society	\$95,600
Strathcona County Victim Services Society	\$30,869
Taber Crime and Abuse Prevention Society	\$14,220
Victim Services Society of Stony Plain, Spruce Grove and District	\$100,000
Vulcan Regional Victim Service Society	\$10,000
Wetaskiwin & District Victim Services Society	\$80,000
Total	\$1,508,062

**Grants
Provided For
Police-based
Programs**

In addition to grants listed on page 9, Victims of Crime Fund grants also supported the following police-based programs through multi-year grants in 2003/2004, 2004/2005 or 2005/2006:

**Multi-Year
Grants**

Airdrie and District Victims Assistance Society	\$25,000
Athabasca Regional Victim Services Society	\$21,000
Barrhead Community Victim Services Unit Association	\$11,500
Bashaw Victim Assistance Society	\$13,960
Battle River Victim Assistance Society	\$30,000
Beaver County Victim Services Association	\$18,000
Big Country Victim Services Association	\$52,500
Bow Valley Victim Services Association	\$50,000
Brooks & District Victim Assistance Association	\$32,118
Calgary Police Service Victim Assistance Unit	\$100,000
Cardium Region Victim Services Unit Society	\$40,000
Cochrane and Area Victim Services Society	\$60,000
Cold Lake Victim Services Society	\$22,541
Crisis Association of Vegreville	\$15,000
Edmonton Police Service Victim Service Unit	\$100,000
Edson and District Victim Services Society	\$24,000
Fairview Victim Assistance Association	\$14,415
Fort McMurray Victim Services Society	\$100,000
Grande Prairie & District Victim Assistance Program Association	\$95,000
High Level Community Policing Society	\$45,050
Highway 43 Victim Services Unit	\$40,000
Lac La Biche Society, Victim Services Unit	\$60,000
Leduc and District Victim Assistance Society	\$55,000
Lethbridge Detachment Victim Assistance Society	\$16,000
Lethbridge Regional Police Service Victim/Witness Services	\$100,000
Medicine Hat Police Victim Assistance Unit	\$70,000
Red Deer Rural Victim Assistance Society	\$11,300
Strathmore Regional Victim Services Society	\$35,500
Sylvan Lake & District Victim Services Association	\$13,200
Three Hills Victim Services Society	\$8,000
Two Hills and Area Victim Services Society	\$13,000
Victim Services Unit Association-Sturgeon Region	\$37,000
Volunteer Programs Association –Fort Saskatchewan	\$35,000
Wabasca Regional Victim Service Society	\$40,000
Westlock Community Victim Services Unit Association	\$24,488
Total	\$1,428,572
Total Grants Provided to Police-Based Programs in 2006/2007	\$2,936,634

Community Programs

Community-based victim service programs respond to the needs of victims of crime in specialized ways. The types of victims who may require specialized services include children, intimate partner, senior citizens, mentally or physically challenged, sexual assault, gender diverse, immigrant and Aboriginal groups. Community-based programs specialize in their field of service delivery and respond effectively to the needs of victims either for a specific period of time or during the entire continuum of the criminal justice process.

In 2006/2007 the following community programs received grants:

Alberta International Victim Service Conference **\$93,520**

The Alberta International Victim Service Conference Committee was formed in 2005 to provide a venue for training volunteer victim advocates and program coordinators. The Committee is comprised of Victim Service Coordinators from 11 Southern Alberta Victim Service Units in partnership with the Alberta Police-Based Victim Services Association (APBVSA). The Alberta International Victim Service 2007 conference was held in Calgary on May 25th to 27th. Topics including domestic violence, sexual violence, program management/governance, bereavement, law enforcement, the criminal justice system and early psychological crisis intervention were covered.

Canadian Society for the Investigation of Child Abuse **\$100,000**

The Society was formed in 1985 and remains committed to supporting professionals, communities, child victim/witnesses and their families during their involvement with the criminal justice process. The Society continues to maximize the effectiveness of the investigative and criminal prosecution systems and to minimize the trauma to victims and their families. In addition to their child court preparation program they have begun utilizing "Illuminate Live!" a court preparation software program that mimics the face-to-face experience by allowing young victims and their victim assistance support person to talk over the Internet, chat on-line, and see each other via live webcam. This innovative program is allowing young victims in rural and isolated locations the opportunity to participate in court preparation.

Catholic Social Services **\$87,630**

Elderly Adult Resource Services (EARS) began operation on January 1, 1989 as an Edmonton-based Catholic Social Services program that offered 24 hour social worker intervention response to seniors experiencing abuse. EARS provides a continuum of services from prevention to intervention that includes collaboration between EARS' caseworkers and the Edmonton Protection Order Program, Edmonton Police Victim Services Unit and Crown prosecutors. The grant was provided so EARS can continue to concentrate on the prevention of elder abuse, facilitate court transportation and accompaniment, as well as victim advocacy for seniors with compromised physical or mental abilities.

Central Alberta Victims Assistance Society (CAVAS) **\$30,000**

CAVAS is an umbrella organization that works with 14 police-based victim service units in central Alberta. The grant provides training and professional development for advocates, board members and police liaisons, in addition to supporting costs associated with liability insurance and travel.

**Community
Programs**
Central Alberta Women's Emergency Shelter Society
\$40,700

This facility is located in Red Deer. The grant monies support the Domestic Violence Court Case Coordination Project which operates within the Domestic Violence Docket Court. While ensuring the safety of victims, the project works to enhance their case outcomes in court by facilitating effective investigation, prosecution and sentencing of family violence cases. Increased communication, coordination and case management with criminal justice professionals such as Crown prosecutors, police, community corrections, Alberta Children's Services and treatment counselors is working to increase victim participation in the criminal justice process.

Diverse Voices - Family Violence Conference
\$20,000

For the sixth year consecutive year, the Diverse Voices Family Violence Conference showcased best practice initiatives to professionals assisting victims of family violence. The opportunity to share information, network, and learn from experts across the world was well received by over 680 participants. This initiative presented Alberta service providers with the opportunity to gain a better understanding of current research and practical information that directly impacts information delivery and support to victims of family violence.

Family Law Office
\$100,000

The Legal Aid Society of Alberta initiated a pilot project in 2001 to deliver legal services in family law through the salaried staff lawyers operating from the Family Law Offices situated in Calgary and Edmonton. The Family Law Office is designed to improve access to justice for family law litigants with limited financial resources. As well as improving access to justice, the mandate of the Family Law Offices is to provide services in a cost effective manner and to assist clients in a holistic way. To better respond to family violence issues, the Family Law Office initiated the Edmonton Protection Order Program (EPOP) in 2004. EPOP provides front line information and support services for victims seeking Emergency Protection Orders (EPO) via the Provincial Court and subsequent confirmation through the Court of Queen's Bench. The grant allows the Family Law Office to provide assistance to victims to access the Courts, the police, and other service providers through EPOP; to develop training presentations in consultation with Edmonton Child and Family Services Authority; and to cover program operating costs, training and insurance.

HomeFront Society for the Prevention of Domestic Violence
\$100,000

HomeFront is a coordinated justice-community response addressing the issue of domestic violence within the Calgary municipal area. HomeFront utilizes partnerships within the law enforcement/criminal justice systems and numerous community agencies to provide a continuum of services to families in Calgary impacted by domestic violence. HomeFront provides services through three programs: Early Intervention and Outreach, the Specialized Domestic Violence Court Program and the Partner Support Program. The latter program is the recipient of this grant and provides victims of domestic violence whose ex-partners are under community supervision (probation) with information regarding community resources and support while increasing their level of safety and encouraging them to make changes for their well being.

**Community
Programs**
Lesser Slave Lake Indian Regional Council Victim Services \$85,000

The Lesser Slave Lake Indian Regional Council Victim Services provides victim assistance services to five First Nation communities located on the shores of Lesser Slave Lake. The grant funds allow the Lesser Slave Lake Indian Regional Council to continue to provide victim services in a manner sensitive to Aboriginal culture, spirituality, religious customs and languages.

Lloydminster Sexual Assault & Information Centre (LSAIC) \$30,000

LSAIC has been in operation since 1982 to provide specialized victim assistance in cases of sexual assault. Their service area includes Lloydminster, Wainwright, Canadian Forces Base Wainwright, Vermilion, St. Paul, Cold Lake, Bonnyville and surrounding areas. In 2001, they established the Crisis Intervention/Victim Witness Program to provide immediate crisis services and support to victims of sexual violence including accompaniment to a hospital, the police, and subsequent court preparation and court accompaniment. LSAIC also provides support and assistance completing Requesting Restitution forms and Financial Benefits applications, referrals to community based organizations, job placement, professional training, addictions counselling, and in-office intervention for secondary victims.

Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD Canada) \$74,000

Mothers Against Drunk Driving is a national organization with branch offices in all provinces across Canada. Their mission is to stop impaired driving and to provide support to victims of this violent crime. In 2006 MADD announced a new victim service initiative entitled 'Honouring Our Spirit'. This initiative was designed to meet the specific needs and interests of Alberta's First Nations and Métis people who have been victimized by impaired driving. Honouring Our Spirit utilizes a variety of mediums and formats to raise awareness about impaired driving in aboriginal communities. The Honouring Our Spirit toolkit includes:

- a 20 minute DVD featuring First Nations and Métis testimonials that highlight how impaired driving affected their lives and how MADD assisted them.
- a facilitators guide to be used in conjunction with the DVD provides information on First Nations beliefs and customs regarding grief.
- a poster, brochure, radio and print public service announcement series reflecting First Nations and Métis culture and heritage.
- an expansion of the MADD website to include Honouring Our Spirit content.

Northeast Regional Victim Services Conference \$5,680

Northeast Regional Victim Services was formed in 1994 to provide a regional forum and association for 12 Victim Service Units in north-eastern Alberta. The goals of this organization are to collaborate on regional initiatives, share information, address common issues and maintain a high level of professionalism for member programs with a focus on the front line volunteer advocates. An annual conference is traditionally held at St. Edouard (near St. Paul) to provide professional development, new advocate training and to facilitate the sharing of best practices by all stakeholders. The grant funded the 2006 conference held November 3rd and 4th and covered expenses involved with venue costs and speaker fees.

Community Programs

Providing Assistance, Counseling and Education (P.A.C.E) \$28,000

P.A.C.E, is located in Grande Prairie and provides services to individuals and communities dealing with sexual assault/abuse in north-western Alberta. P.A.C.E provides standardized crisis intervention training programs to community members, front line workers and volunteers. The grant was awarded to increase victim, public, and police understanding of sexual abuse, victim issues, offender responsibilities, community resources and to assist victim service units and local womens' shelters with training, particularly as it relates to sexual abuse, community resources and the criminal justice system.

Project KARE \$75,000

RCMP "K" Division established Project KARE to investigate the deaths and disappearances of high risk persons in Alberta and to minimize the risk of further homicides within that life style segment. The RCMP Veterans Association applied for a one year grant to support the hiring of a civilian coordinator within the Family Services Program attached to Project KARE. The coordinator is tasked with providing information and support to the family and friends of missing or deceased persons whose files are under the mandate of KARE. Often times support has to be provided for persons residing out of the province. The coordinator ensures that support and timely information is shared with victims' loved ones as well as making Project KARE more approachable for those families.

SAFFRON: Strathcona Sexual Assault Centre \$16,130

SAFFRON was formed in 2000 to provide support for victims of sexual violence, their significant others and the community. During the past year, SAFFRON developed protocols for agencies who deal with victims of sexual abuse and assault. Grant funding was awarded for SAFFRON to provide protocol training to agencies who may encounter sexual assault victims including medical doctors and chiropractic offices in Strathcona County. These protocols ensure that victims of sexual violence receive support through consistent, effective services.

Sexual Assault Centre of Edmonton (S.A.C.E.) \$63,215

The Sexual Assault Centre of Edmonton began as a community initiative in 1975 for individuals and communities affected by sexual violence. Grant monies were directed towards 'The Outreach Program' to provide court information and support to victims and to expand programs that strengthen relationships with Edmonton's diverse communities, who are vulnerable to sexual violence. These groups include people of varying ethno-cultural backgrounds, seniors, persons with disabilities, and the gay, lesbian, bi-sexual and trans-gendered population. The Outreach Program provides culturally sensitive and language appropriate information and support.

**Community
Programs****Tsuu T'ina Nation Band-Stoney Corrections Society \$59,650**

The Tsuu T'ina Nation Band-Stoney Corrections Society provides victim services for Tsuu T'ina and the three Bands of the Stoney Tribes: Bears paw, Chiniki and Wesley. The Society provides intervention, referrals, court orientation and support, information about victim impact statements, restitution, financial benefits, information on family violence and assault/sexual assault. The grant was provided to develop additional partnerships with service providers to enhance services for victims of crime in the three communities.

Victims of Homicide of Edmonton Support Society \$35,000

Victims of Homicide is an Edmonton-based self-help group founded in 1995 designed to offer emotional support and information about surviving the loss of a loved one to homicide. The program seeks to increase public awareness and increase their capacity as a referral resource. They also serve as a community educational resource by providing presentations to Victim Service Units, conferences, front line workers and the public regarding members' experiences. Grant funds were used for website and brochure development, presenting at conferences, speaker's fees and other operational costs.

Zebra Child Protection Centre Society \$100,000

Located in Edmonton, the Zebra Centre is based on a multi-disciplinary model of care for child physical and sexual abuse victims. Zebra's Child Advocacy Program is staffed by volunteer advocates who maintain continuity with victims and caregivers throughout involvement with the criminal justice process. Advocates also conduct support assessments to determine the appropriate level of assistance. The grant enabled the Child Advocacy Program to recruit and train additional resources.

Sub Total \$1,143,525

Victims of Crime Fund grants supported the following community programs which received multi-year grants in either 2003/2004, 2004/2005, or 2005/2006:

Alberta Police-Based Victim Services Association \$100,000**ASSIST Community Services Centre \$51,972****Calgary Communities Against Sexual Abuse \$60,000****Calgary Legal Guidance \$50,000****Crisis Centre \$44,000****Edmonton John Howard Society Victim's Assistance Program \$100,000****Sub Total \$405,972****Total Grants Approved or Provided to Community Programs in 2006/2007 \$1,549,497****Total Grants Approved for Police-Based Programs in 2006/2007 \$2,936,634****Total Grants Provided in 2006/2007 \$4,486,131**

PROGRAM ACTIVITY

Introduction

Information on the 2006/2007 activities of victim service programs was collected using the Quarterly Report Form. The Report Form collects information on the number of new cases, the number of persons assisted, and the type of assistance provided. For each of these variables, the Report Form categorizes assistance provided as either:

- *Criminal Code – Violent* (e.g. homicide, violent sex offences, serious assaults, etc.)
- *Criminal Code – Non-violent* (e.g. forgery, fraud, theft, etc.)
- *Offence Non-criminal* (offences that do not fall within the *Criminal Code of Canada*, i.e., Provincial Statute Offences)
- *Assistance – No offence* (e.g. sudden death, notifying next-of-kin, motor vehicle collisions, suicide, etc.).

The Report Form quantifies:

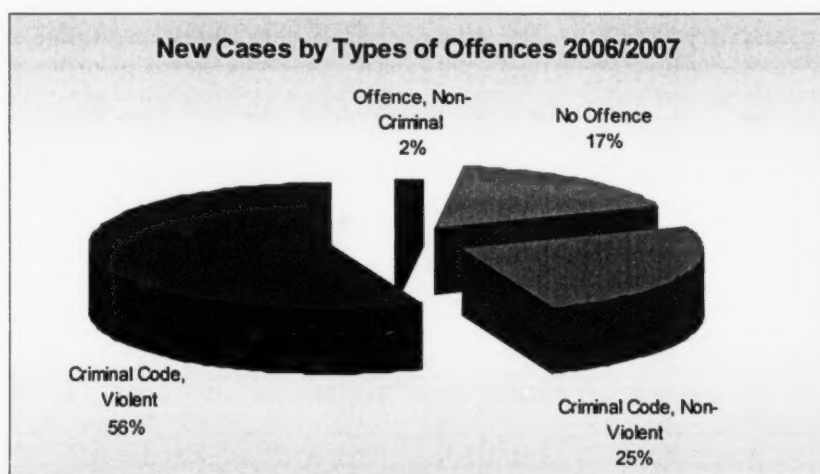
- the number of Victim Impact Statements distributed to victims of crime
- the number of Victim Impact Statement Notification forms that have been completed and forwarded to the Court and Crown prosecutor
- the number of Requests for Restitution completed and forwarded to Crown prosecutor offices
- the number of Victim of Crime Protocol documents distributed to victims
- volunteer statistics include the number of advocates, the hours volunteered, the type of activities performed and staffing level information.

The Report also collects statistics on victim referrals to victim service units, whether from police or other sources.

New Cases

Victim service programs reported dealing with 43,914 new cases during the 2006/2007 fiscal year, a 21% increase compared to 2005/2006.

Figure 3

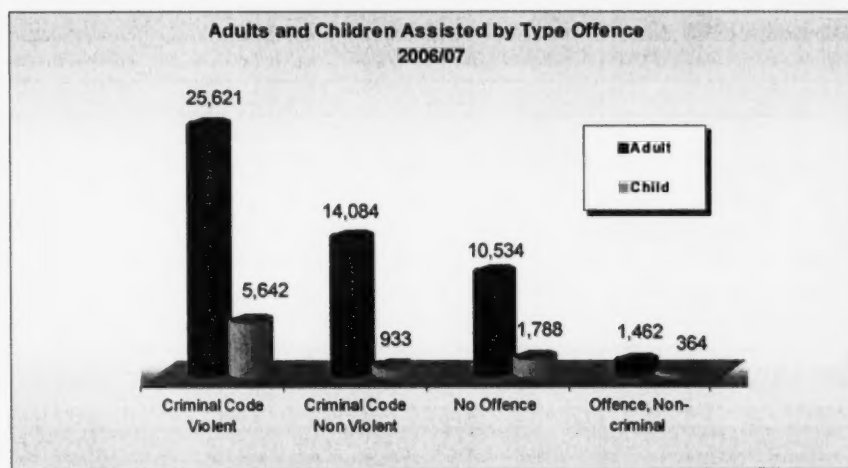


Program Activity

New cases refer only to files opened during the reporting period. A case may involve multiple victims and family members or friends affected by a criminal incident. Of the 43,914 new cases, slightly more than half (56%) involved assisting victims of violent *Criminal Code* offences (**Figure 3**). Assistance was provided least often (2%) for *Non-Criminal* offences.

Persons Assisted

Programs reported providing assistance to 60,428 people, a 24% increase compared to 2005/2006. Of persons assisted during this period, 51,701 (86%) were adults and 8,727 (14%) were children. 52% of the people assisted were victims of a violent *Criminal Code* offence, while 25% of people assisted were victims of non-violent *Criminal Code* offences. (**Figure 4**)

Figure 4

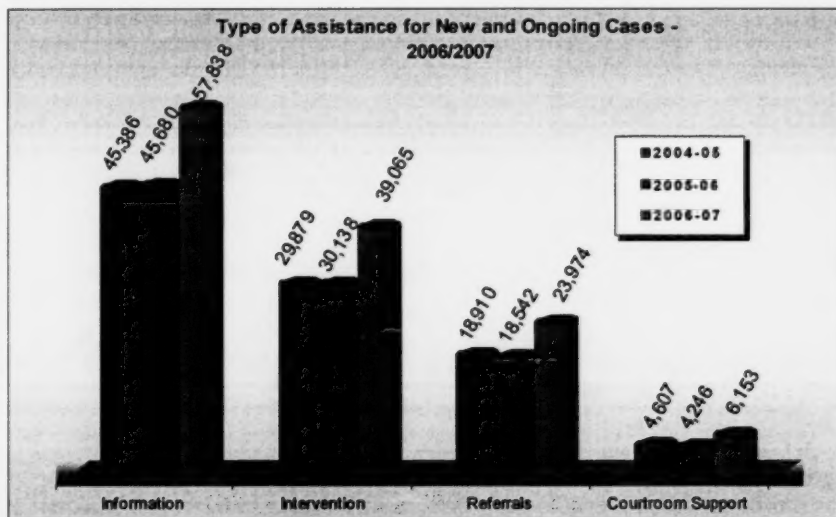
Compared to 2005/2006, there was a 26% increase in persons assisted who were victims of a violent *Criminal Code* offence, and a 22% increase in persons assisted in relation to a non-criminal offence. There was also a 26% increase in persons assisted in the *No Offence* category and a 16% increase in persons assisted who were victims of a non-violent *Criminal Code* offence. The large increase in persons assisted does not necessarily indicate an increase in crime but reflects victim service programs increasing awareness of their services.

Type of Assistance

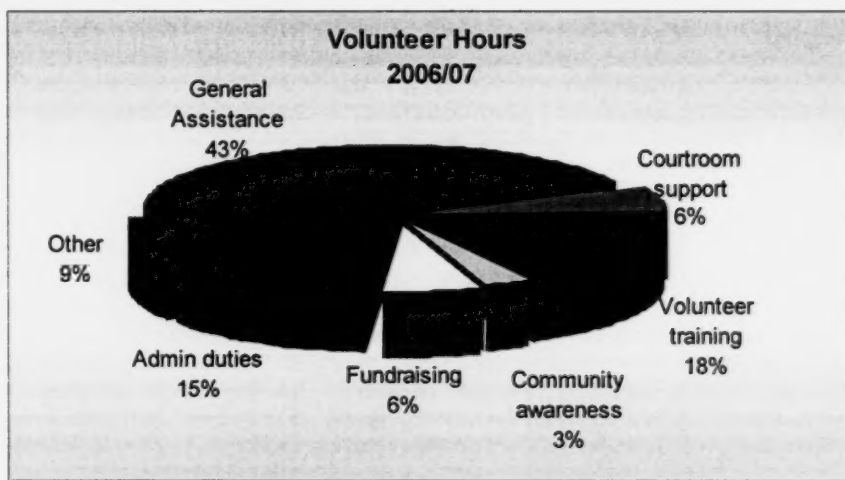
Providing information was the type of assistance most frequently reported for new and ongoing cases (57,838), a 21% increase from 2005/2006 (**Figure 5**). The *Intervention* category, which includes crisis response, notification of next of kin, or practical assistance at a crime scene, was the second most common type of assistance reported (39,065 cases) a 23% increase from 2005/2006. *Referrals to other Agencies* (23,974 cases) reflected a 23% increase compared to 2005/2006.

Program Activity

Court Room support was provided in 6,153 cases primarily involving violent Criminal Code matters.

Figure 5**Volunteers**

Volunteer dedication is vital to the success of the Alberta Solicitor General and Public Security mandate to ensure victims of crime have timely access to information and services while they are involved in the criminal justice system. Volunteers donate their time in differing capacities to either police-based or community-based victim service programs.

Figure 6

In 2006/2007, 43% of volunteer hours were spent providing general assistance (information, intervention and referrals) to victims. Eighteen percent of volunteer hours were dedicated to volunteer training, followed by administrative duties at 15%.

Volunteers

Remaining volunteer hours were spent on other activities such as meetings and travel time (9%), court room support (6%), fundraising (6%), and raising community awareness (3%) (**Figure 6**).

The distribution of volunteer hours between these categories did not vary significantly from the previous year.

The number of volunteer hours in 2006/2007 decreased by 6% compared to 2005/2006 while the number of volunteers has decreased 8% from 1,925 to 1,767.

ALBERTA SOLICITOR GENERAL AND PUBLIC SECURITY VICTIMS SERVICES INITIATIVES

Victims of Crime Protocol: What Victims Can Expect from the Criminal Justice Process

The *Victims of Crime Protocol: What Victims Can Expect From The Criminal Justice System* is a reference manual for victims of crime. The *Protocol* outlines for victims what role each component within the criminal justice system plays from the reporting of a crime to the police through to the National Parole Board. The protocol also outlines to victims what is expected of them when dealing with the criminal justice system. Over 42,000 copies of the protocol were distributed.

The *Protocol* was in response to a recommendation in the *Report of the Alberta Victims of Crime Consultation* and was developed through input from victims of crime, police services, victim service programs, crown prosecutors, court services, community agencies, the judiciary, sheriffs, the Office of the Medical Examiner, military police, Correctional Service of Canada and the National Parole Board.

The *Victims of Crime Protocol* reflects the strong commitment of the Government of Alberta to treat victims of crime with courtesy, respect and compassion; to protect their safety and privacy; and to provide timely and useful information to victims while they are in contact with the criminal justice system. The *Protocol* is the first of its kind in Canada and has attracted national and international interest.

Victims of Crime Protocol Training

The *Protocol* was finalized and approved by the Solicitor General and Minister of Public Security and the Minister of Justice in December 2006. Training workshops for the *Victims of Crime Protocol* took place between February and March 2007, in 12 communities throughout the province. In total, 897 participants from stakeholder agencies attended the training sessions.

Victims of Crime Protocol: Roles and Responsibilities

A companion document to the *Victims of Crime Protocol* is the *Victims of Crime Protocol: Roles and Responsibilities*. While the *Protocol* is designed for victims of crime, the *Roles and Responsibilities* document outlines for staff within the criminal justice system, what is expected of them as they work with victims of crime. Over 4,000 copies of this document were printed for distribution to the various stakeholders across Alberta.

**Victim
Impact
Statement
Program**

The Victim Impact Statement Program provides victims in Alberta with an opportunity to have input into sentencing by describing in writing, to the Court, how they have been affected by the crime.

Police are required to notify all victims of crime about the victim impact statement and provide information on where the Victim Impact Statement Form and information to complete it can be obtained.

Victims have the option of reading their statement aloud in court. If the victim has chosen to do so, the police or victim services notifies the victim of the court date for sentencing. Prior to sentencing, the Court is required to inquire if the victim has been advised of their opportunity to prepare a statement and may adjourn proceedings to permit the victim to prepare a statement.

As a result of case law decisions in Alberta, Victim Impact Statement guidelines were revised and the following changes were implemented in 2004/2005:

- Statements are sent directly to the Clerk of the Court and the Crown prosecutor after a charge is laid; and,
- Victim service programs complete a Victim Impact Statement Court Notification form which notifies the Clerk of the Court and the Crown prosecutor that a victim in a specific case wishes to complete a Victim Impact Statement. When the victim files their Victim Impact Statement with the Court, the Clerk of the Court keeps the Statement on file until a conviction is entered, at which time it is given to the presiding Judge.

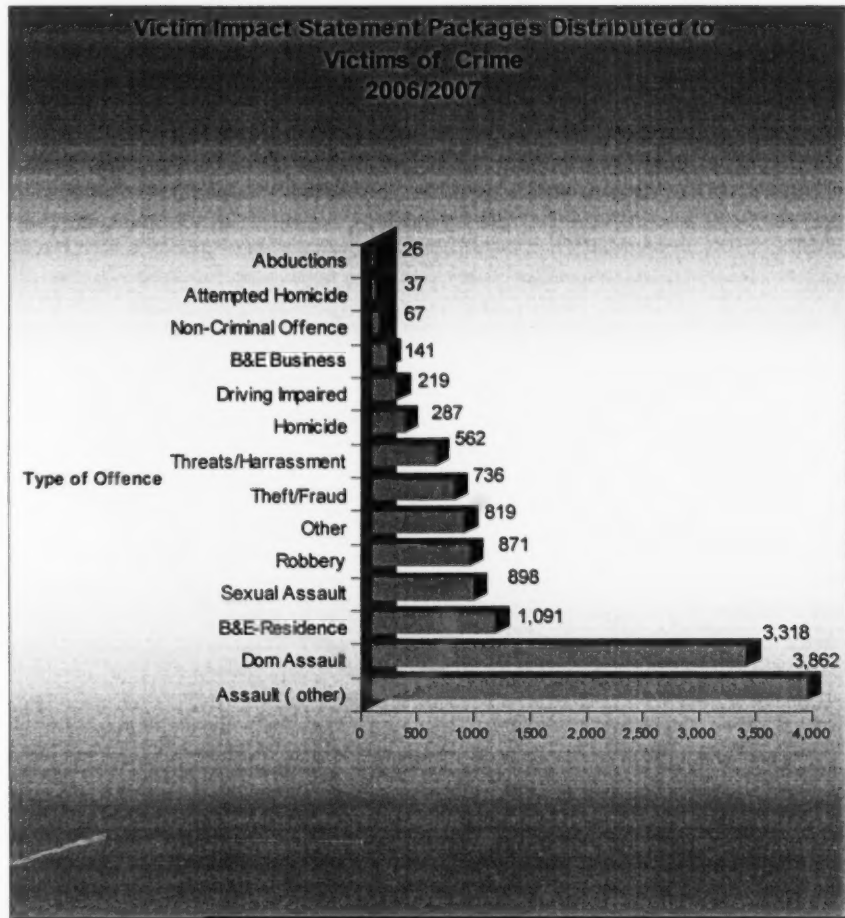
As a result, after April 1, 2005, victim service programs began reporting the number of Victim Impact Statement packages they distributed to victims, and the number of Victim Impact Statement Notification forms forwarded to the Clerk of the Court and the Crown Prosecutor's Office.

In fiscal year 2006/2007, programs reported distributing 12,934 Victim Impact Statement packages to crime victims in Alberta (**Figure 7**). Victim service programs completed 4,509 Notification forms and forwarded them to the Clerk of the Court and Crown Prosecutors' Offices, after charges had been laid.

**Victim
Impact
Statement
Program**

Victim Impact Statement packages were most often distributed by victim service programs in relation to *common assault*, (3,862) followed by *domestic assault* (3,318) and *break and enter to a residence* (1,091).

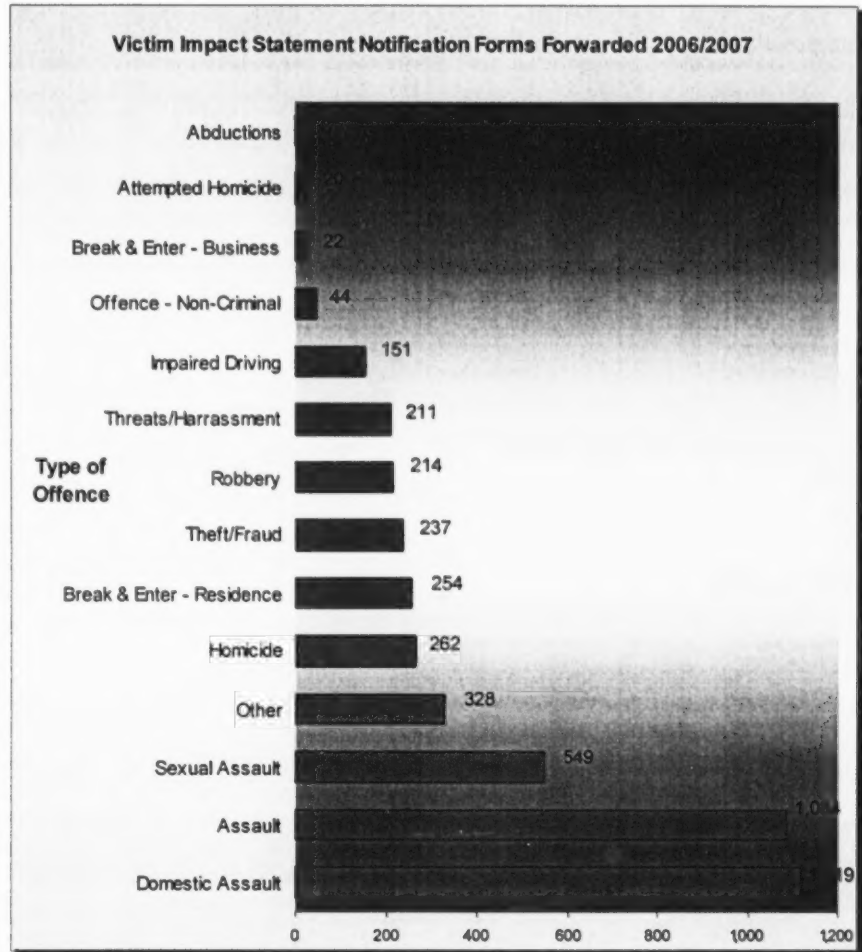
Figure 7



**Victim
Impact
Statement
Program**

The three categories of offences in which the most Victim Impact Statement Notification Forms forwarded were *domestic assault* (1,119), *common assault* (1,084) and *sexual assault* (549). The least number were forwarded in cases of *break and enter - business* (22), *attempted homicide* (20) and *abductions* (14) (**Figure 8**).

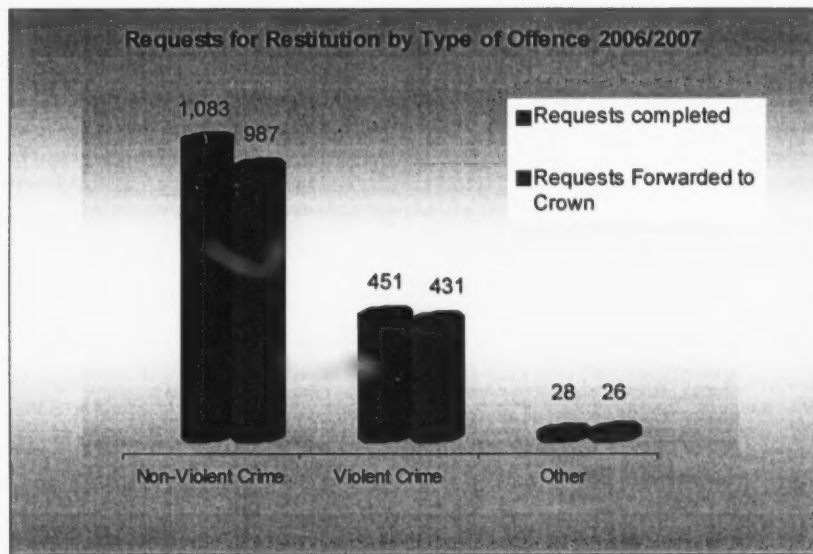
Figure 8



Requesting Restitution

The Requesting Restitution Program provides victims of crime who have suffered a financial loss with information about how they can request that the offender pay restitution. A crime victim may complete a Request for Restitution Form provided by the investigating police officer or a victim services' worker. Once the form is completed, the victim returns it to police for forwarding to the Crown prosecutor. The Crown Prosecutor may make the application for restitution to the Court, or may decline to do so. If the Crown declines, the victim may on their own motion request the Court to order restitution.

Figure 9



Restitution may be ordered for:

- damage
- destruction and loss of property,
- psychological and/or bodily harm
- expenses incurred in moving out of the offender's house, as in spousal abuse cases
- for losses incurred by unknowingly purchasing or lending money on stolen property

On May 23, 2006 Bill C-49, the *trafficking in persons* amendments to the *Criminal Code* came in to effect and expanded the ability to seek restitution to all victims who are subjected to psychological as well as bodily harm.

For the 2006/2007 year, 1,562 Requests for Restitution were completed and returned to police and of these, 1,450 were forwarded to the Crown after charges were laid. These figures represent an increase of 21% and 18% respectively, from the last fiscal year. The majority of the Requests for Restitution forwarded to the Crown concerned *Non-Violent Crime*. The next largest category was *Violent Crime* followed by *Other* (Figure 9).

Victim Advocate Training Manual

Alberta Solicitor General and Public Security distributes the *Victim Advocate Training Manual* to victim service units throughout Alberta. The Manual establishes a provincial standard for victim advocate training and creates an opportunity for victim advocates to become certified in victim services. In 2006/2007, 288 victim services advocates and program coordinators received certification from the Solicitor General and Public Security Staff College.

Victim Assistance Coordinator Training

In 2006/2007, 55 participants attended the Victim Assistance Coordinators' Training held February 26th to March 2nd, 2007. Training sessions were delivered to victim service unit program coordinators, victim advocates, police officers, Court Services staff, Crown Prosecutors and Criminal Justice staff, Alberta Solicitor General and Public Security staff, Department of National Defense staff, and Aboriginal representatives.

The training provided information about the criminal justice system, federal and provincial legislation concerning victims of crime, and information about related programs assisting victims in Alberta.

Public Awareness Campaign

In 2006, the Solicitor General and Public Security department launched a victim services awareness campaign. The campaign consisted of radio announcements, transit advertisements, rest-o-bar advertisements in restaurants and licensed establishments, and a series of posters distributed to victim assistance programs province wide.

The awareness campaign utilized the tagline "**Victims Deserve to be Heard**" to highlight that victims do have a voice and a role in the criminal justice system. The awareness campaign is expected to be an ongoing, multi-year program.

Brochures

A series of brochures designed to increase awareness of programs available to victims of crime and to provide specific information on victim impact statements, restitution and financial benefits was distributed to police services, victim services unit and other agencies who provide assistance to victims of crime.

Victims of Crime Website

The Alberta Solicitor General and Public Security Victims of Crime website contains a wide range of information on victims' programs and services in Alberta including:

- Help for Victims of Crime
- Financial Benefits Program
- Victim Program Grants
- Requesting Restitution
- Contact information for Victim Service Units, Community Programs, and the Victims Services Branch, Solicitor General and Public Security.

The website address is: www.victims.gov.ab.ca

**Contact
Information**

CONTACT US

For additional information, contact
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Victims Programs
Public Security Division
Alberta Solicitor General and Public Security
10th Floor, John E. Brownlee Building
10365 – 97 Street
Edmonton AB T5J 3W7

Phone: (780) 427-3460 (local calls) or
310-0000 (toll-free within Alberta) or through our web-site at:
www.victims.gov.ab.ca

Appendix A

ALBERTA POLICE-BASED VICTIM SERVICE UNITS 2006/2007



Note: This map is a visual representation of Victim Service Units in Alberta and is not intended to be geographically accurate

